## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are or were in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1. – 129. Canceled.

130. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection, comprising administering an effective amount of a purine or pyrimidine β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

131. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

132. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is a purine nucleoside.

133. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is administered in combination or alternation with a second anti-hepatitis C agent.

134. (Original) The method of claim 133, wherein the second agent is selected from the group consisting of an interferon, ribavirin, a protease inhibitor, a thaizolidine derivative, a polymerase inhibitor, and a helicase inhibitor.

135. (Original) The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is an interferon.

136. (Original) The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is an ribavirin.

137. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,~~compound~~ is in the form of a dosage unit.

138. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 137, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.

139. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

140. (Canceled).

141. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is in substantially pure form.

142. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is at least 90% by weight of the β–D-isomer.

143. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is at least 95% by weight of the β–D-isomer.

144. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered.

145. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

146. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable ester.

147. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 144, wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

148. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145, wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

149. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 146, wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

150. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 144, wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

151. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145, wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

152. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 146, wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

153. - 160. (Canceled).

161. (New) The method of claim 130, wherein a phosphate, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of the β–D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered.

162. (New) The method of claim 131, wherein the pyrimidine nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is a cytidine nucleoside.

163. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the purine nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is a guanosine nucleoside.

164. (New) The method of claim 162, wherein a phosphate, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of the cytidine nucleoside is administered.

165. (New) The method of claim 163, wherein a phosphate, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of the guanosine nucleoside is administered.

166. (New) The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside or phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, is administered to a host.

167. (New) The method of claim 166, wherein the host is a human.

168. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a hepatitis C virus in the host with a compound of claim 130 or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

169. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a cell in the host infected with a hepatitis C virus with a compound of claim 130 or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

170. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a hepatitis C virus in the host with a compound of claim 162 or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

171. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a cell in the host infected with a hepatitis C virus with a compound of claim 163 or a phosphate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.